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Authorized by: S.

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May 10, 1948

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SUBJECT: COVERT OPERATIONS

THE PROBLEM

1. To consider measures for the furtherance of covert operations in the interest of our national security.

REPLY IS

2. In time of peace the means employed by a nation to achieve its national objectives are both overt and covert. They range from such overt actions as political alliances, economic measures (as LSP), and "white" informational activities, to such covert operations as unacknowledged support of "friendly" foreign elements, "black" propaganda and even encouragement of underground resistance in hostile states. Covert operations are the traditional policy activities of any foreign office enjoying positive leadership. Covert operations are traditional in many European chancelleries but are relatively unfamiliar to this government.

3. Having assumed greater international responsibilities than ever before in our history and having been engaged in a "cold war" by the full might of the Soviet Union, we cannot afford to leave unmobilized our resources for covert operations. We cannot afford in the future, in perhaps very serious political crises, to rely upon improvised covert operations [REDACTED].

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4. In NSC 4-2 provision was made for the conduct of certain covert psychological operations. The SARACC has considered such matters as utilization of refugees from the USSR in the United States national interest, plans for evacuation of key foreign personnel, demolition of oil facilities, and psychological warfare (SARACC 395, 396, 398, 399 series). In connection with the latter topic, the views of the JCS, concurred in by SARACC, have been referred to the NSC for consideration. It is the opinion of the JCS that from the military point of view there should be established, as soon as practicable, under the NSC, a psychological warfare organization, but with its peacetime scope and activities limited to that of a working nucleus for planning and coordination (SARACC 394/14). The Policy Planning Staff of the Department of State can also submitted informally to the NSC Staff a paper suggesting a unified direction of covert operations.

5. In the light of the above considerations, the NSC Staff has prepared a proposed NSC Directive which is believed to be consistent with the views of the JCS and which is also designed to strengthen and extend current covert operations in the interest of our national security and to provide for plans and preparations for the conduct of covert operations and of the overt phases of psychological warfare in time of war. The staff has also prepared a revision of NSC 4-2

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which renders the latter consistent with the proposed Directive.

CONCLUSIONS

6. The proposed EEC Directive in annex 1 should be approved, *and it approved*

*//* The proposed revision of EEC 4- in annex 2 should be approved.

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